

met with by Mr. F. Ober in Grenada, and gives a nominal list of the whole of them. Specimens of most of those obtained by Mr. Wells have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, and have been determined by Mr. Lawrence.

XI.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis :—

SIRS,—I beg leave to send you a short note on the proper generic name for the Nightingales.

The following generic names have been proposed for these birds :—

Luscinia, Brehm, Isis, 1828, p. 1280.

Daulias, Boie, Isis, 1831, p. 542.

Philomela, Selby, Brit. Orn. i. p. 206 (1833).

Lusciola, Keys. & Blas. Wirbelth. Eur. p. lviii (1840).

Although *Luscinia* has the priority, still, even in one of the most recent works ('A List of British Birds, compiled by a Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union,' p. 11), the genus *Daulias*, Boie, has been used for the Nightingales, but, according to my view, not quite correctly. Both *Luscinia*, Brehm, and *Daulias*, Boie, were published by their authors without characters; but while *Luscinia* has been accepted and characterized by G. R. Gray, in the 'Genera of Birds,' i. p. 173, since 1848, and accepted also by Cabanis (Mus. Hein. i. p. 1) and others, *Daulias* was revived much later by Dr. Sclater ('Revised List of the Vertebrate Animals in the Gardens of the Zoological Society,' p. 126), in 1872, and first characterized nearly at the same time, or very shortly afterwards, by Prof. Newton ('Yarrell's British Birds,' i. p. 312)*. From all this it is quite evident that *Luscinia*, Brehm,

* Strickland, in 1841 (Ann. & Mag. N. H. vi. p. 422), thinking that *Luscinia* had been first used generically by Bonaparte in 1833, wrote that it "should give way to *Philomela*, Selby, 1833, unless *Daulias*,

established and characterized before *Daulias*, Boie, is the proper generic name to be used for the Nightingales.

I have heard that one reason adduced for rejecting "*Luscinia*" is that Brehm, in using that name, has attributed it to Brisson, as if he was reviving a Brissonian genus, whereas Brisson made no such genus. But I do not see any good reason in this. Brehm could not have thought that he was reviving a Brissonian genus *Luscinia*, as he must have read that Brisson puts *Luscinia* in the genus *Ficedula*; Brehm only meant that the term *Luscinia* (like *Cyanecula*, *Ruticilla*, and other names, *which have been generally accepted and attributed to Brehm*, even in the B.O.U. List) is to be found in Brisson. It is, however, a fact beyond any doubt that those names were used in a generic sense for the first time by Brehm, and consequently they must be attributed to him.

Yours &c.,

T. SALVADORI.

SIRS,—In the notice of my article on Birds from Emperor-William's-Land, in the last number of 'The Ibis,' the locality in one passage (p. 518, line 8) is given as "Lifu." It should be "Kafu."

Begging of you to notice this *erratum*,

Yours &c.,

Dresden, November 1886.

A. B. MEYER.

The House Bunting of the Sahara and Marocco (*Fringillaria saharæ*).—"One very pleasing feature in Marocco is the tameness of all wild creatures. At Kaid Maclean's dinner-table there were always a number of little birds hopping about on the cloth, which at first we thought were pets of the family, till we were told they were the Sparrows of the

Boie, be prior to the latter name;" but Strickland at that time was not aware that *Luscinia* had been used by Brehm in 1828, long before Bonaparte.

city. They picked up the crumbs under your very nose, and boldly perched on the bread and the edge of one's wine-glass, a familiarity which at times I found had its disadvantages. They are held sacred, and being thus preserved from injury are perfectly fearless and domesticated. This bird, which is called *tabib* (doctor), is quite different from the European Sparrow, being of a red-brown colour with pretty markings, about the same size, but of a less stout build. When I woke of a morning there were often one or two of these little fellows on my pillow, and others perched on the end of the bed."—*Stutfield's 'El Maghreb: 1200 miles' ride through Marocco,'* p. 253. [Cf. Tristram, *Ibis*, 1859, p. 295.]

Migration at Chicago.—The 'American Naturalist' of September last contains the following curious story (*Am. Nat.* xx. p. 818):—

"The building of the Board of Trade of Chicago has a ring of electric-arc lights around its dome, some 300 feet above the pavement. The ring is thirty feet in diameter, and contains twenty lights. They were lighted for the first time on the evening of January 1st, 1886. On the night of May 8th following, a terrific thunderstorm passed over the city between the hours of 11 P.M. and midnight. During the storm the attention of the few people who were in the street at that time was attracted to the spectacle of a great number of birds hovering about this ring of lights and dashing at them. In the morning it was discovered that hundreds of dead birds were scattered about the foot of the tower, and hundreds more were found upon the roof of the building. When the workmen ascended the tower to renew the carbons in the lights, they found many of the globes occupied by the bodies of birds, some containing as many as eight, and many of the carbons had been broken off by the birds. Over two hundred bodies were picked up by one of the workmen attached to the building, which was but a small part of those carried away by the news-boys and others in the morning. A person who saw them before any were taken

away, estimated that more than a thousand were killed. But even this was but a small portion of what were seen in the air about the tower. It is to be regretted that no person competent to determine the species of the birds killed on this occasion was present when they were first observed. I understand that a few of them afterwards fell into such hands, but I have heard no report. From the testimony of those who saw them they appear to have been, for the most part, the smaller song-birds."

The Ridgway Ornithological Club.—Mr. H. K. Coale sends us the subjoined summary of the recent proceedings of the Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago.

Aug. 12th. Mr. George L. Toppan read a paper on "Spring Notes for Cook and Lake Counties, Ill., and Lake Co., Ind." A paper from Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, entitled "The Future of American Ornithology," was also read. Donations of skins, eggs, and ornithological literature were received from resident and corresponding members.

Sept. 9th. Mr. J. G. Parker, Jun., read a paper on the "Ornithology of Sauk and Colombia Counties, Wisconsin," illustrated with skins of the rarer species.

Oct. 14th. A paper by Robert Ridgway, entitled "List of the Birds found breeding within the corporate limits of Mount Carmel, Ill.," was read. The subject of publishing the Proceedings of the Club was discussed and favourably thought of, although definite action will not be taken until the November meeting.

Ornithological Works in Progress.—Our President, Lord Lilford, is endeavouring to gather together what little is known of the Birds of Cyprus, and is making plans for a further investigation of the avifauna of that island during the approaching spring. He would be glad, we are sure, to receive any information on this subject. It is certainly high time that steps should be taken to make us better acquainted with the natural history of this recently acquired portion of

the British Empire, which, though small in area, is of great interest as regards its position.

Mr. H. H. Johnston, now H.B.M. Vice-Consul in West Africa, aided by a grant from the British Association, has already effected a preliminary survey of the summits of the Cameroons, and obtained amongst other spoils a small series of birds. We trust that it may contain, along with other rarities, additional specimens of *Strobilophaga burtoni*, of which the only known example was obtained by Sir Richard Burton when he made his ascent of the Cameroons in 1861. The presence of this arctic type in the Cameroons would lead us to expect to find there accompanying forms of like origin.

Mr. Seebohm is busily engaged on the final revision of his work on the "Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ, or Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes," which will be ready for publication about May next. It will be illustrated by twenty excellent plates of the rarer species, which have been executed by Keulemans, besides about 200 woodcuts. The same facile artist has, we believe, undertaken the preparation of the plates for Sir Walter Buller's new edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand.'

Messrs. J. A. Harvie-Brown and T. E. Buckley have in preparation a 'Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherland, Caithness, and West Cromarty,' a work based upon the authors' personal acquaintance with the larger portion of the area treated of, during a period of twenty years. It will be issued in small quarto, with a map showing the faunal areas, and plates, at a cost of 21s. to subscribers, who are invited to send their names in to Mr. Harvie-Brown, Dunipace House, Larbert, N.B. Up to the present the names of intending subscribers have been coming in very slowly, and unless 250 are secured, it may not be considered desirable to proceed with the work. The failure of so promising a contribution to our history of local faunas would be very regrettable, and we trust that those Members of the B.O.U. who have not yet sent in their names will no longer imperil the work by delay.

Aided by a grant from the donation fund of the Royal

Society, Mr. W. H. Hudson has been able to devote much of his time lately to rewriting his excellent field-notes on the birds of the Argentine Republic, which have been published in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society, the 'Field' and elsewhere. Sclater is preparing them for publication in connection with a new descriptive catalogue of the same avifauna, and proposes to publish them under the title of 'Argentine Ornithology.' They will form two octavo volumes of about the size of 'The Ibis.'

Exhibition at Ekaterinburg.—The Société Ouralienne d'Amateurs des Sciences Naturelles sends us a polite invitation to visit Ekaterinburg next summer, any time between the 15th of May and the 18th of September, in order to see the "Exposition scientifique et industrielle de la Sibérie et des Monts Ourals," in which specimens of birds and eggs will form a portion of the exhibits in Class IV. "Zoology, Zootomy, and Anatomy." The route is by railway to Nishni, steamer thence to Perm, and railway again to Ekaterinburg. Tickets will be issued at very reduced rates to those furnished with vouchers by the Committee of the Exhibition. The Committee of the B.O.U. will be glad to hear from any Member who would like to make this interesting journey.

New Birds from the West Indies.—A supplementary paper to the last number of 'The Auk,' 1866 (pp. 497 *et seqq.*), shows how much there is still to be done in the smaller islands of the West-Indian archipelago, even in the well-worked subject of ornithology. Mr. Charles B. Cory, who has for some time so successfully devoted himself to explorations in this quarter, has sent a collector to the small islands known as Grand and Little Cayman, which are situated south of Cuba and about one hundred and thirty miles north-west of Jamaica. As has recently been shown to be the case in the Island of Cozumel, off the coast of Yucatan, here also isolation has continued long enough to permit

many of the birds shut off from intercourse with their parent forms to acquire differences which amount to what are usually regarded as specific. Out of about forty species of which examples were obtained by Mr. W. B. Richardson for Mr. Cory, no less than thirteen are considered to be new, and several others are stated to vary slightly from known West-Indian forms. The new species are named:—(1) *Certhiola sharpei*, (2) *Dendroica vitellina*, nearest to *D. discolor*, (3) *Chrysotis caymanensis*, next to *C. leucocephala* of Cuba, (4) *Colaptes gundlachi*, like *C. chrysocaulosus* of Cuba, (5) *Engyptila collaris*, (6) *Zenaida spadicea*, (7) *Centurus caymanensis*, (8) *Mimocichla raveda*, (9) *Quiscalus caymanensis*, (10) *Spindalis salvini*, most like *S. pretrii*, (11) *Vireo alleni*, (12) *Myiarchus denigratus*, and (13) *Icterus bairdi*, most nearly allied to *I. leucopteryx* of Jamaica. On the whole, as might have been expected, the “Avifauna Caymanensis” seems to be most nearly connected with that of Cuba. But probably the Caymans were mainly stocked with life, not by immigration, but when still part of the old continent out of which the Antilles were carved by the Gulf-stream. For this continent I suggest the name PRÆANTILLESIA. Some of the types of its ancient life we have still left in *Solenodon* and *Capromys* amongst Mammals, and *Todus*, *Temnotrogon*, and *Spindalis* amongst Birds.

Messrs. Godman and Salvin have also lately received a collection of birds from Ruatan and some of the other smaller islands off the coast of Yucatan, amongst which are objects of considerable interest. Of this collection, Mr. Salvin promises us an account for a future number of ‘The Ibis.’—P. L. S.

‘*Stray Feathers.*’—While two new ornithological periodicals have recently appeared on the continent of Europe (the ‘*Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie*’ and ‘*Ornis*’), our Indian contemporary, ‘*Stray Feathers*,’ has, we fear, altogether come to an end. It was hardly to be expected, perhaps, that Mr. Hume, having presented his noble col-

lection to the British Museum, would be in a position to continue his work of editing 'Stray Feathers'; but we venture to hope that he will at least issue or permit to be issued a fourth part and index to the last unfinished volume, so that we may be able to bind it up. Thus brought to a respectable termination, 'Stray Feathers' must be regarded as a most valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Indian avifauna, and as a lasting credit to the energy of its talented Editor.

OBITUARY. *Mr. A. E. Knox.*—The British Ornithologists' Union has lost another of its original members by the death of ARTHUR EDWARD KNOX, which occurred on the 23rd of September last at Dale Park, near Arundel. Born in Dublin, the 28th of December, 1808, the deceased gentleman was the eldest son of the late Mr. John Knox of Castlereagh, in the county of Mayo (who died in 1861), the descendant of a branch of the Scottish family of that name which had settled in Ireland early in the seventeenth century*. Being the heir of a large and, as it was then believed, a flourishing property, our late fellow-member entered Brazenose College in the University of Oxford, where he graduated M.A., and obtained a commission in the Second Regiment of Life-Guards, from which he retired about the time of his marriage, in 1835, with Lady Jane Parsons, daughter of the second Earl of Rosse, and therefore sister to the constructor of the famous telescope. Mr. Knox soon after took up his abode at Pagham, on the coast of Sussex, and there began that course of observations on the birds of that county, the results of which have appeared in his two best-known works. A few years later he removed to New Grove near Petworth, subsequently to St. Ann's Hill, Midhurst, and, about 1860, to Trotton House near Petersfield, which he occupied until quite recently. For some time after leaving the army, the expectations to which he had been born gradually dwindled,

* See Dr. Charles Rogers's 'Genealogical Memoirs of John Knox and of the Family of Knox' (pp. 33-40), printed for the Grampian Club in 1879.

and finally the terrible famine of 1845 reduced him, like so many others dependent upon Irish landed property, almost to penury. In the endurance of poverty he found much solace through the outdoor study of natural history; and at length, by means of the Encumbered Estates Act, prosperity again dawned upon him, but at the cost of parting with the family possessions. His first published notes appeared in 'The Zoologist' for 1843; and, in 1849, he brought out his 'Ornithological Rambles in Sussex: with a Systematic Catalogue of the Birds of that County'—the precursor of so many works of similar local scope, few of which, however, have equalled it as regards personal experience, while none have surpassed it in spirit. A favourable notice, by his friend and country-neighbour, the late Bishop Wilberforce, in the 'Quarterly Review,' not only helped the sale of this little book, so that a second and a third edition appeared in 1850 and 1855 respectively, but encouraged the immediate publication of another—'Game Birds and Wild Fowl'—of no less merit, though herein the author shows more of the sportsman than the ornithologist. A scientific ornithologist, indeed, Mr. Knox never professed to be; but, so far from being one of the many popular writers who because they know not science affect to despise its teachings, he held it in the utmost respect; and in the dark November days of 1858, when the most sanguine were at times in doubt whether the required score of members of the B.O.U. would ever be found, he readily threw in his lot, took the greatest interest in the project, and contributed, as all know, a pleasantly written little paper to the first volume of this Journal (*Ibis*, 1859, pp. 395–397). Mr. Knox's last work was 'Autumns on the Spey,' published in 1872, and its frontispiece will give to those who knew him not some idea of his personal appearance, though to them no conception can be conveyed of his genial nature, his fund of humour, and his varied accomplishments—among which mention may be made of his power as a draughtsman, though this may be judged of by the plates to the now rare original edition of his first work. His collection of birds, formed almost entirely in Sussex, he gave, on breaking

up his establishment at Trotton, to his long-attached friend the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, to be preserved at Goodwood House, where it is now lodged.

Dr. G. A. Fischer.—We also regret to have received intelligence of the death at Berlin, on November 11th last, of the well-known German explorer and ornithologist, Dr. G. A. Fischer. Dr. Fischer first went out to East Africa in 1876, as a physician at Zanzibar, and made several short excursions into the interior in 1877 and the following years. In December 1882, with the assistance of the Geographical Society of Hamburg, Dr. Fischer undertook a more lengthened expedition. Starting from Pangani, he travelled through Masai-land towards the Victoria Nyanza, and reached the southern end of Lake Naivasha, returning to the coast in the August following.

In August 1885, after a short holiday in Europe, Dr. Fischer started again from Pangani, for the purpose of carrying succour to Dr. Junker, Emin Bey, and the other Europeans isolated in the Soudan by the Mahdi's rebellion, with which object he was sent out by Dr. Junker's brother. Dr. Fischer reached the Victoria Nyanza successfully, but on proceeding to skirt the lake on the eastern side found the country devastated by famine, and was forced to return, without succeeding in obtaining any communication with Dr. Junker and his companions. He reached Zanzibar again in June last, and had only recently arrived at Berlin at the time of his unexpected decease. Besides several geographical papers and two books of travel ('Das Masai-land,' Hamburg, 1883, and 'Mehr Licht im dunklen Weltteil,' Hamburg, 1885), Dr. Fischer wrote numerous ornithological notes, which will be found mostly in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' The remarkable Touracou, *Corythaix fischeri*, obtained by Dr. Fischer in Wito in 1877, will perpetuate his name amongst naturalists. A general summary of his ornithological discoveries will be found in his "Uebersicht der in Ostafrika gesammelten Vogelarten, mit Angabe der verschiedenen Fundorte," in the J. f. O. 1885, p. 113.